



CITY OF DURHAM
Office of Public Affairs
101 CITY HALL PLAZA
DURHAM, NC 27701

News Release

For Immediate Release: April 5, 2016

News Media Contact:

Amy Blalock
Sr. Public Affairs Specialist
(919) 560-4123 x 11253
(919) 475-7735 (cell)
Amy.Blalock@DurhamNC.gov
<http://Facebook.com/CityofDurhamNC>
<http://Twitter.com/CityofDurhamNC>
<http://YouTube.com/CityofDurhamNC>

Durham Celebrates National Fair Housing Month

Events are Free and Open to the Public

DURHAM, N.C. – April is National Fair Housing Month and the City of Durham is celebrating the 48th anniversary of the Fair Housing Act, which is the landmark law that was passed one week after the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in April 1968.

Every April, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, local communities, fair housing advocates, and fair housing organizations across the country commemorate National Fair Housing Month by hosting a variety of activities that enhance awareness of fair housing and that emphasize the importance of ending housing discrimination.

Residents, property owners, and housing providers who are interested in learning more about creating equal housing opportunities in every Durham neighborhood should mark their calendars now to attend several upcoming events, which are free and open to the public.

Third Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Good Neighbor Breakfast

- Saturday, April 9 from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church, 305 E. Main St., Durham
- Sponsored by the [Human Relations Division](#) of the City's Neighborhood Improvement Services Department, [Human Relations Commission](#), [Durham Community Martin Luther King, Jr. Steering Committee](#), and [Durham Congregations In Action](#)

Fair Housing Training: Persons with Disabilities and Handling Reasonable Accommodations

- Thursday, April 14 from 10 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. at the City's Neighborhood Improvement Services Department 3rd Floor Conference Room, 807 E. Main St., Building 2, Durham
- Sponsored by the [Human Relations Division](#) of the City's Neighborhood Improvement Services Department

**Hispanic Fair Housing Training: Familial Status Discrimination (Families with Children)
Bi-lingual Presentation**

- Friday, April 22 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the City's Neighborhood Improvement Services Department 3rd Floor Conference Room, 807 E. Main St., Building 2, Durham
- Sponsored by the [Human Relations Division](#) of the City's Neighborhood Improvement Services Department

Race Relations Then and Now: Journey to Justice Presented by G. Douglas Jones

- Thursday, April 28 from 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. in City Council Chambers, 101 City Hall Plaza, Durham
- [G. Douglas Jones](#), a founding partner and lawyer with the [Jones & Hawley P.C.](#) in Birmingham, Ala., led the team of prosecutors in the re-opened case of the 1963 bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham. He will provide a presentation on what really happened during the 1963 bombing and how they successfully prosecuted the two former Ku Klux Klan members for the murder of four young girls killed in the bombing.
- Sponsored by the [Human Relations Division](#) of the City's Neighborhood Improvement Services Department

Human Relations Commission Award Ceremony with Keynote Address by G. Douglas Jones

- Thursday, April 28 from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Holton Career and Resource Center, 401 N. Driver St., Durham
- Sponsored by the [Human Relations Division](#) of the City's Neighborhood Improvement Services Department and the [Human Relations Commission](#)

For more information about any of these events, contact Human Relations Manager Delilah Donaldson by [email](#) or at (919) 560-4107, ext. 34277.

About the Human Relations Division in the City of Durham Neighborhood Improvement Services Department

The [Neighborhood Improvement Services Department](#) works to preserve and improve quality of life conditions for Durham residents, and to encourage active participation in neighborhood redevelopment and public policy and decision making dialogue. The department's [Human Relations Division](#) strives to improve race and human relations in the City by working to eliminate housing discrimination and by prioritizing community outreach and educational activities to meet the needs of Durham's residents. The division is responsible for enforcement of the City of Durham Fair Housing Ordinance and the federal Fair Housing Act. HUD provides funding annually for the Division to investigate housing complaints in the City of Durham that allege discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex (gender), religion, national origin, physical or mental handicap or familial status (families with children). The Human Relations Division also provides oversight to the City of Durham [Human Relations Commission](#), which is comprised of 15 Durham residents who meet monthly to work on activities designed to improve human relations and promote harmony throughout Durham. The department is also responsible for enforcement of quality of life ordinances and state statutes including the City's Minimum Housing Code; Nonresidential Code; Weedy Lot, Abandoned & Junk Vehicle ordinances; and the State of North Carolina's Unsafe Building Statute. The department's rapid responders, known as the Impact Team, remediate non-compliant housing properties; abate public nuisances, such as litter, graffiti, illegal dumping, and abandoned shopping carts; and conduct neighborhood service projects. The department's Community Engagement staff provides outreach and education to Durham residents and community organizations. Guided by the City's [Strategic Plan](#), the department helps ensure that Durham has thriving, livable neighborhoods by providing the highest quality of services to engage and educate the community, eradicating blight, ensuring safer neighborhoods and enhancing neighborhood revitalization.

###